

# OPERATOR'S MANUAL

Walk-Behind Mower  
4 HP, 21" Cut  
with Rear Bagger



FORM - 1612460-02  
PRINTED IN U.S.A.  
11/89

MODEL 1550BBC  
MFG. NO. 1691728

# *Simplicity*®

# BASIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

## TRAINING

- Read the operating and service instruction manual carefully. Be thoroughly familiar with the controls and the proper use of the equipment.
- Never allow children to operate a power mower.
- Keep the area of operation clear of all persons, particularly small children, and pets.

## PREPARATION

- Thoroughly inspect the area where the equipment is to be used and remove all stones, sticks, wires, bones, and other foreign objects.
- Do not operate the equipment when barefoot or wearing open sandals. Always wear substantial footwear.
- Check the fuel before starting the engine. Do not fill the gasoline tank indoors, when the engine is running, or until the engine has been allowed to cool for several minutes after running. Clean off any spilled gasoline before starting the engine.
- Disengage the self-propelled mechanism or drive clutch on units so equipped before starting the engine (motor).
- Never attempt to make a wheel height adjustment while the engine (motor) is running.
- Mow only in daylight or in good artificial light.
- Never operate the equipment in wet grass. Always be sure of your footing; keep a firm hold on the handle and walk; never run.

## OPERATION

- Do not change the engine governor settings or over-speed the engine.
- Do not put hands or feet near or under rotating parts. Keep clear of the discharge opening at all times.
- Stop the blade (s) when crossing gravel drives, walks, or roads.
- After striking a foreign object, stop the engine (motor), remove the wire from the spark plug, thoroughly inspect the mower for any damage, and repair the damage before restarting and operating the mower.
- If the equipment should start to vibrate abnormally, stop the engine (motor) and check immediately for the cause. Vibration is generally a warning of trouble.

- Stop the engine (motor) whenever you leave the equipment, before cleaning the mower housing, and when making any repairs or inspections.
- When cleaning, repairing, or inspecting, make certain the blade and all moving parts have stopped. Disconnect the spark plug wire, and keep the wire away from the plug to prevent accidental starting.
- Do not run the engine indoors.
- Shut the engine (motor) off and wait until the blade comes to a complete stop before removing the grass catcher or unclogging chute.
- Mow across the face of slopes; never up and down. Exercise extreme caution when changing direction on slopes. Do not mow excessively steep slopes.
- Always disconnect electric mowers (line operated) before cleaning, repairing, or adjusting.
- Never operate the mower without proper guards, plates, or other safety protective devices in place.
- Keep washout ports and other mower-housing service openings closed when mowing.

## MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

- Check the blade and the engine mounting bolts at frequent intervals for proper tightness.
- The cutting edges of the mower blade are sharp and can lacerate (cut) skin tissue. Care should be taken when doing any repair work on or around the mower blade. To prevent injury, it is recommended that gloves be worn or the cutting edge be wrapped with newspaper or any other suitable material when working on the blade.
- Keep all nuts, bolts and screws tight to be sure the equipment is in safe working condition.
- Never store the equipment with gasoline in the tank inside a building where fumes may reach an open flame or spark. Allow the engine to cool before storing in any enclosures.
- To reduce fire hazard, keep the engine free of grass, leaves, or excessive grease.
- Check the bag frequently for deterioration and wear and replace worn bags. Check that replacement bags comply with original manufacturer's recommendations or specifications.